

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Related Application

The specification has been amended by inserting at the beginning thereof a statement that this application is a national phase of International Application No. PCT/GB99/04394 filed on December 23, 1999 and published in English under Publication No. WO 00/41283.

Specification

Regarding the objection to the specification, the error noted by the Examiner has been corrected. In addition, appropriate headings have been added and an abstract is attached on a separate sheet.

Drawings

The objection to the drawings is now moot in view of the cancellation of claim 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 has been amended to provide clear antecedent basis for "bars or tubes" in claim 2. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 USC 112 is now moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The claims have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kern (US 3,606,020), Mazura et al. (US 5,488,543), DE 29709227, Anderson (US 5,806,945) and/or Jones et al. (US 5,380,083). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

As set forth in claim 1, the present invention provides a frame (10) for an electrical cabinet, the frame (10) comprising two transverse members (30) disposed at opposite ends of the frame (10), and at least two side members (20) connecting the transverse members (30). The two side members (20) are located on opposed sides of the transverse members (30), and each of the transverse members (30) has a skeletal form formed from two connected substantially "U" shaped bars or tubes (32, 34) having substantially the same shape with substantially straight bases. The "U" shaped bars or tubes are connected together at the bases thereof, with at least one side of each of the

transverse members (30) having a recess in a substantial part thereof, and each side member (20) is connected to each transverse member (30) at a location that is stepped back from the other sides of the transverse members (30) to define a space therebetween. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, each side member is stepped back from the open end of the respective "U" shaped bar or tube so as to provide a space defined by the outside surface at the open end of the "U" shaped bar or tube and the edge of the side member. This space enables cabling, etc. to be passed between the frames of adjacent cabinets without requiring external ducting.

The Examiner contends that Kern discloses side bar members (10, 12, 14, 16) being stepped back from the other sides of the transverse members to define a space therebetween. This contention, however, appears inconsistent with the teachings of Kern, in that Kern's structure clearly teaches positioning the elongate members 10, 12, 14 and 16 flush with the ends of the transverse members 38 and 40. Consequently, there is lacking the claimed step back which provides a space that can accommodate, for example, cabling.

Turning now to US Patent 5,488,543, Mazura teaches the use of solid plates forming the base and lid of the therein disclosed frame. The plates are not of a skeletal form. Indeed, Mazura makes it clear that the use of the base and lid plates (1,2) is an essential feature of the disclosed frame. Mazura's frame arrangement is only possible because of the use of the solid plates; the holes through the center and the recesses on the edges of the solid plate facilitate unimpaired insertion of complex cable harnesses.

The base and lid plates (1,2) of the Mazura device are connected to either two or four profiled rails (10) made of extruded aluminum to form a frame. The rails (10) are not connected to the sides of the base and lid plates, but instead the ends connect inwardly from the edge of the plate to the face of the base and lid plates. The positioning of the rails, therefore, does not provide the space defined in claim 1.

German patent DE 297 09 227 appears to disclose a collapsible frame with the side members being located at the corners of the frame. It does not appear to disclose side members being stepped back from the side of a transverse member as recited in claim 1.

It is clear that none of the prior art teaches or suggests the location of the side members to the side of the transverse member to provide a space. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claimed invention would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By



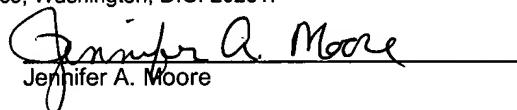
Don W. Bulson, Reg. No. 28,192

1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113

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Jennifer A. Moore

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